



THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL ARMY
NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION

GAZETTE

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THE Q.A.R.A.N.C. ASSOCIATION
GAZETTE

Patron:

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY, *Colonel-in-Chief*, Q.A.R.A.N.C.,
to whom we send our loyal birthday greetings for May 26th.

Vol. 1. No. 6

MAY, 1951

Other Ranks

SOME IMPRESSIONS are given here of Q.A. O.Rs.—and their work. First a poem written by one of them for a New Year Carol Service.

WE ALSO SERVE
(*Sub Cruce Candida*)

What were your dreams when you joined this Nursing Corps,
Were they of healing on some far distant shore,
Of mending someone's body, of healing someone's pain,
Have faith, go on, don't falter, your dreams won't be in vain.
For everything upon this earth we have to fight and slave,
Your first few months of nursing for you a path will pave,
A path that leads to greater things a nurse can only find,
When people walk unaided, healed in body and in mind.
Hang on to dreams, and in the years to come do not forget,
The dawn must surely break when you reach the goal you set,
Wherever British soldiers serve, at home, or overseas,
The Q.A. Nursing Service will be there, their pain to ease.
Now as the old year dies, and the new year waits its birth,
God grant his blessing to all nurses on this earth,
Help them, we pray Thee, to carry out Thy will,
Till our earthly home crumbles, and this life is still.

JEANNE M. MILLER.

The Depot sends the following :

PROUD "Q.AS." IN THE MAKING

Anyone visiting this Depot today will notice as an accepted part of our life here the orderly little groups of women who march smartly to and from their lectures with the N.C.Os.—happy, intelligent people with a zest for living—already counting the months towards an overseas posting and a new life. Only seven months ago this scene was a thing of the future.

Let me take you back to a rather wet day in July, 1950—nothing abnormal, I am afraid, in this part of Surrey—when business seemed as usual to the casual observer but was not so for some of us who were on the eve of a big adventure. Preparations were well under way for the reception of our Q.A.R.A.N.C. other ranks, and a few bright young N.C.Os.—volunteer transfers from the W.R.A.C., their stripes very new—were putting the final touches to the barrack rooms, which had been freshly painted a pale cream for the occasion by our R.A.M.C. personnel.

At first only one recruit came, then four, and gradually by November there were two hundred undergoing training, and the first thirty, having completed their Basic Course, had been posted to hospitals. These pioneers came from almost every walk of life and had very varied civilian careers, but all had two things in common—a desire to

nurse and a wanderlust. They settled down to their new life extremely well and swiftly became part of our large family.

Intakes of these volunteers came at fortnightly intervals and were to undergo a twelve weeks' course—their Nurse Training and Regimental Training being catered for.

Naturally their day was to be pretty full ; but I will say no more of the routine now, as I feel no one is better fitted to describe it than those who are actually doing it.

As the grey and scarlet lanyard of the women became known in these parts, invitations to all functions came from far and near, and the recruits soon became popular and sought after at the dances. Their Corps spirit—very quickly gained—came ever to the fore, and the uninitiated who asked who they were got the full history. At one football match near by, where the R.A.M.C. were playing a rival team and our women were in full support, someone said to a recruit, "What mob do you belong to?" She drew herself up haughtily (history relates) and said, "I am a Q.A." When told, "Never heard of it," she replied, "I belong to the Army Nursing Corps dating back to 1854, when Florence Nightingale went out to the Crimea to nurse the troops." Yes, indeed, they learn their traditions quickly.

Intakes are once fortnightly, and on that day gaily dressed young women are seen in the camp on their way to the Stores to be kitted and to sign for their bedding. One Monday not so long ago the inevitable happened—an ex-officer who had rejoined to go to Korea got into the stream of the intake and was caught up for some time. She was shocked at the youth of the modern Q.A., not realizing an Other Rank formation had started, and vainly tried to cover her greying hair. On arrival at the barrack room she was initiated into drawing her bedding, knife, fork and spoon by those who had already arrived, and it was not until she got into the queue that she realized she was in the wrong department. She took her leave amidst much amusement and heaved a sigh of relief to find her hair was not so grey after all !

Each intake seems to cling together, and have tremendous loyalty to their "set." Squads vie with each other for the best turn-out on parade in the morning and in many ways manifest the team spirit—not that they are angels all the time. Dear me, no ! We have already proved that women get up to the same pranks as men, and in fact are probably aided and abetted by them. A chest of drawers that turned overnight into a table during the fuel shortage leads me to suspect that parts of it were used for firewood. However, since receiving the bill for barrack damages they are no doubt sadder but wiser women !

While the steady intake of recruits continues at the Depot we hear of those who have gone forward to hospitals, and it is gratifying to know how well they are doing and what good results were obtained in our first Corps examinations. We have also heard from the women themselves, who appear to have settled down to hospitals and enjoy the strenuous life they have chosen. We also hear that Cupid has been busy with his bow and arrow !

MARY J. SCANNELL.

From two Q.A.O.Rs. at the Depot:

Feeling like a fish out of water, I arrived at my home for the next three months, "The Depot and T.E." and thought I was stranded in one of God's forgotten countries.

I was here about ten minutes when I was gently shepherded into the dining hall, placed in a chair, and found myself staring at a plate of bacon and eggs, "two whole eggs" and a nice cup of hot coffee. Unfortunately my stomach was in rather a knot by this time and I was feeling very overwhelmed, so I am afraid the food was wasted on me that time.

All I really did that day was to go to meals, collect my bed-clothes and make friends with all the other girls who came wandering into our hut looking like little lost lambs. As the days went on we more or less knew each other in our hut and so did not feel so strange. Our main aim at this period was to get into uniform as quickly as possible, dressed as we were in our civilian clothes, we were feeling rather conspicuous and very, very raw "Rookies." It was not long, however, before we were "kitted out" with complete uniforms, and then began the great work of pressing our clothes, sewing on buttons and polishing our shoes, trying to act as if we had been in the Army all our lives.

At the end of our first week we were feeling a little off-colour—having had our inoculations, but at the beginning of the second week, on the Monday, this feeling wore off and wore off very quickly at that, because Monday "Red Letter Day" was the day we really started our lectures.

The first lectures were quite interesting, and of course by this time we were drilling on the square as well, so, as I look back and try to remember, I think that on the whole, we were settling down by that time and were quite happy.

Monday of the third week started what we had all been waiting for, namely, our Nursing lectures, because after all, coming into the Q.A.R.A.N.C., to be nurses was our one ambition.

Monday again (every big event seemed to fall on a Monday), this time we really were overjoyed. New "Rookies" came in on that day and we were no longer "That new squad" we were "B₃ Squad" now, and very proud of it.

We were studying now with one aim in mind, getting our Pass Class examination over and getting into hospital.

All through this time we were still being taught to march properly (and still are), and being made into good soldiers.

Entertainment was not lacking in this life of ours either! We were invited to dances held by various other companies, and since every Saturday afternoon and Sunday was our own to do with as we liked, a trip to London or into some big town certainly helped to buck us all up.

Speaking now in the present tense, our squad has sat one nursing examination (which everybody passed); we are all on our way to

sitting our next and last nursing examination, before leaving the Depot.

To finish off, and I think I may say this for the rest of the girls as well as myself, we have no regrets at having joined the Q.A.R.A.N.C. and we are looking forward to at least three more years spent as happily as our first months at the Depot.

BRIDGET LENNON.

At dawn we're roused from slumber
By the Duty N.C.O.
And despite our sleepy mutterings,
To breakfast we must go.

There are barrack room inspections,
With reports that make us weep,
So when we return from breakfast
We must clean and dust and sweep.

With buttons bright and shining
We must then go on parade,
And the only time we like that,
Is the one on which we're paid.

At all our nursing lectures
We're the pride of Serjeant's heart !
(Though he's never really said so
We have guessed it from the start !)

In the evening there's the N.A.A.F.I.
And how we hail with glee,
The stimulating fragrance
Of a cup of N.A.A.F.I. tea.

And then at last there's lights out,
And we all retire to bed,
Of life in Q.A. Depot,
There is no more to be said.

JEAN L. ARNOLD.

This letter came from a Q.A. O.R. working in hospital:

I joined the Q.As. in November. Although rather frightening at first, never having been accustomed to anything of the kind before, it was amazing how quickly one settled down and enjoyed life at the Depot for the first three months of the training. After the first fortnight, when we were no longer "Rookies," the time went like a flash. I think a few people were disappointed by the amount of drill and discipline entailed, but I think they realized eventually, like we all did, that everyone joining the Services, in whatever capacity, has to undergo a certain amount of preliminary intensive, military training before they branch off on whatever side they are taking up.

The thing that impresses me most in the Q.As. is the friendly spirit prevailing everywhere. I imagine this is largely due to the comparatively small number of recruits and to the fact that everyone has joined of their own free will with a definite target in view, whether it is to become S.R.N. and try for a commission or a qualified physio-therapist, dental assistant, or whatever they may have chosen. There are a great many attractions in the Q.As., one of the main ones being the opportunity to travel and move about, whereas training in a civilian hospital one would have to remain in one place for, anyway, three years.

Work in the wards is still rather bewildering, but we are gradually finding our way about and becoming accustomed to the general routine. I have been particularly lucky, being the only Q.A. Other Rank on a large and busy ward with very helpful orderlies. I feel I have already learnt quite a lot. Also just having been ill myself, I am able to see things from the patient's point of view. I was very well looked after.

Life in the Q.As. as an O.R. is largely what you make it, and one does feel one is doing work that is really worth while.

VIRGINIA LIGHTON.

* * * * *

Lastly a Matron of a hospital writes :

On 4th November, 1950, I welcomed into the unit the first batch of Q.A.R.A.N.C. Other Ranks. One could not but feel that another milestone had been passed, a new era in the life of the Corps had been reached. Looking back over the years since its first inauguration in 1902, there have been many changes ; but surely no greater step has ever been taken than this, the opening of the Corps to Other Ranks.

Since the first contingent arrived in this unit, there has been a steady intake each month of new arrivals. Smart in appearance, young, interested, eager and willing to learn, they arrive on the threshold of a new career of their own choosing. All have one aim, that of becoming a State Registered Nurse, and some look forward to the day when they hope to realize the height of their ambition and don the red cape.

Some have already left us for service overseas. Five sat their N.O.III examination in February and passed. One Q.A.R.A.N.C. headed the list when competing with the R.A.M.C.

On the wards I have found them a decided asset, particularly in their dealings with the very sick patient, and they fill a very long-felt need in our female wards.

The Q.A.R.A.N.C. Other Ranks have fallen very readily into their niche in the unit, having their own hockey team, and are looking forward to joining in the various sports when the better weather comes along.

On Q.A. Day this year they held their first unit dance, which was a great success, and for the first time our Corps had its first Church Parade.

From the Matron's point of view, with the coming of the Other Ranks into the Corps, it brings with it a very deep sense of added responsibility, and more work, yet also comes a pride in a task "that is well worth while"—that of training our future State Registered Nurses.

Not easy—for not only have they to be trained to be good nurses, but also good soldiers, able to take their place, not only in the nursing world, but to be a credit to the uniform that they wear as members of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

ANNIE ROWLANDS.

Civil Defence For All

MANY of us are still uncertain where we can best fit in to the Civil Defence services and play our part in them to the utmost of our experience and capacity. Frequently people say, "I am not a nurse so I cannot join the National Hospital Service Reserve," or "I am over 60 and cannot join any of the services." But both of these ideas are wrong, and even worse is the one—"I will not bother at the moment, but of course I will do something if the time comes!" If war should come it would be long past the time to start *organizing* defence services—it would be time to defend! So let us look briefly at what services there are, and consider them.

Who can join

Members of certain reserved occupations are not eligible for Civil Defence, and Class "Z" reservists can only join the Reserve and Pioneer Sections of the Civil Defence Corps and the Auxiliary Fire Service—in other words, the physically strenuous forms of Civil Defence activities. Free leaflets explaining in detail who is eligible to join all the four services are available at local council offices.

Welfare Section, Civil Defence Corps

Perhaps the Civil Defence Corps itself offers the widest range of opportunity to many older people of varied experience. Men and women over 30 can join it if their commitments would not prevent their service.

The Welfare Section has a very wide appeal to those who have had much experience at home—bringing up a family, or perhaps with experience in the W.V.S. “last time,” or in some kind of social welfare. They will find a variety of useful and important work in this section : work in the evacuation and reception areas among people transferred to country areas ; work in rest centres, in emergency feeding units, in mobile canteens, and in public information centres, to mention only a few of the defence duties of this section.

Other Sections in the Corps

There is also the Ambulance Section (for drivers and attendants—women of 18 or over are eligible for enrolment in this section) ; Headquarters work (on telephone communications and technical reconnaissance, etc.) ; the Warden Section (we all know what wardens do !) ; and the Pioneer and Rescue Squads for the skilled and strong.

Members do not enrol for any fixed period of service, but are expected to continue membership of the Corps as long as they are able and wanted, although free to resign on personal grounds at any time. Part-time service in the Corps does not relieve members from any legal requirement such as service with H.M. Forces or any other work of national importance.

Training

Members are expected to attend at a local centre in spare time for training. This will normally entail not more than four or five hours a month, but the length of training may vary with the different sections. Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses are paid, and members receive a Corps badge on completion of their preliminary training.

The A.F.S. and Special Constabulary

The Auxiliary Fire Service and the Special Constabulary need very little explaining. Their titles describe the splendid work they do.

Men of 30 or over and women of 18 and over who are physically fit can join the Auxiliary Fire Service and men and women of 30 or over the Special Constabulary. Both these services call for attributes which fortunately often accompany the desire to join them.

National Hospital Service Reserve

And then there is the National Hospital Service Reserve. Should war come, our hospitals would be faced not only with their present work but also with the demands of the Casualty Service, so we must build up a hospital reserve NOW. There are three sections in this reserve :

One section for trained nurses and midwives, enrolled assistant nurses, and nursing assistants, Class I. On joining they are given the N.H.S.R. badge and take a paid 48-hour refresher course in hospital; and after that a similar refresher course of 48 hours a year.

One section for men and women who wish to train in first-aid and home nursing with the St. John Ambulance Brigade or the British Red Cross Society, who are holding courses of 24 hours' free training. This "initial" training, after which members get the N.H.S.R. badge, is followed by a short course of experience in hospital, full or part time, when these Nursing Auxiliaries are lent the uniform of their training organization and, of course, wear the N.H.S.R. badge. Out-of-pocket expenses are paid during training. Once trained, Nursing auxiliaries also take a 48-hour paid annual refresher course in hospital.

The third section has just been introduced for car drivers and motor-cyclists who hold current driving licences. This section is for the war-time operation of the mobile first-aid and gas-cleansing units attached to hospitals, and volunteers will be known as Nursing Auxiliaries (M). They will also take the initial training in first aid and home nursing, and their period of hospital experience, and if this war-time Reserve were needed in connection with hospitals, they would stand-by for driving duties with the mobile units as well as being available for general nursing duties according to need. Both the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society are enrolling all auxiliary members, including those who choose to be in the (M) section.

Trained nurses over 60 who wish to join the Reserve should send their names and a short résumé of their experience to a Hospital Matron, with the request that it be sent to the Regional Hospital Board in their area to be kept with Regional Nursing Intelligence. These nurses will be contacted later when plans materialize for their service.

Other men and women over 60 who wish to join the Reserve should give their names to St. John Ambulance Brigade or the British Red Cross Society.

Should an emergency arise there is little doubt that their services will be most welcome.

At the end of February last there were 1,300 trained nurses and midwives in the Reserve and 12,500 nursing auxiliaries—a total of 13,800. By the end of March it is hoped to pass the half-way mark towards the initial target of 30,000 members.

ELIZABETH COCKAYNE,
Ministry of Health.

Promotions

The undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonels to be Colonels, 1st April, 1950:

Lieut.-Colonel E. E. Watkin, R.R.C.; T/Colonel A. S. Watson, R.R.C.; T/Colonel H. S. Gillespie, M.B.E., R.R.C.; T/Colonel G. E. Morgan, R.R.C.; Lieut.-Colonel M. A. V. Soutar, R.R.C.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels, 1st April, 1950:

T/Lieutenant-Colonel A. Dexter, R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel M. E. Harris, M.B.E., R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Johnson, R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel F. M. Smith, R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel A. Rowlands, O.B.E., R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel E. D. A. McHardy, R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Dunn, A.R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel K. M. Brady, R.R.C.; Major N. K. Smith, R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel F. M. Lowther, R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel O. M. Watson, R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel N. P. de B. Bampton, R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Parker, A.R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel D. Hanney, A.R.R.C.; Major M. Badgley, A.R.R.C.; Major E. G. M. Reynolds, M.B.E.; T/Lieut.-Colonel E. M. E. Dawe, M.B.E., R.R.C.; Major C. A. O'Haire, M.B.E., R.R.C.; Major G. Cocking, R.R.C.; T/Lieut.-Colonel L. M. Rose, R.R.C.

Retirements and Resignations

February, 1950.—Jun./Cdr. J. Fitzgerald; Sub. A. F. F. Radcliffe (*née McKay*).

March, 1950.—C./Cdr. M. B. Fullalove; C./Cdr. M. B. Page; C./Cdr. V. M. Whiteman; Jun./Cdr. A. M. Trounson (*née Baker*); Sub. D. J. Arter (*née Old*); Jun./Cdr. B. M. M. Macauley (*née Ketley*); Sub. B. M. Austin (*née Blake*); Sub. M. O. B. Gregory (*née Bird*); Sub. J. Muir (*née Callear*); Lieut. B. M. Howard Jones (*née Dickenson*); Sub. I. Smith (*née Hammond*); Sub. C. A. Cowie; Sub. F. H. Watson; Sister G. Roberts; Sister G. M. K. Smith; Sister R. Ross; Sub. J. E. F. Stewart; Lieut. V. A. Inglis (*née Graham*).

April, 1950.—Sub. M. M. James (*née Mullen*); Colonel L. M. Hunnings; Lieut. B. C. Morgan (*née Hickman*); Lieut. A. J. Bennett (*née Smith*); Capt. E. Aiken (*née Connor*); Lieut. E. Hudson (*née Harris*).

May, 1950.—Capt. J. Tozer; Capt. I. M. Hewitt (*née Hooper*); Lieut. L. Barnes; Lieut. J. Stuart (*née Hamilton*); Lieut. I. M. Lloyd (*née Warner*).

June, 1950.—Lieut. D. Minnitt; Lieut. P. Forster; Lieut. J. B. Whyte; Lieut. D. Jackson (*née Hope*); Lieut. G. L. P. Plummer

(née Howard); Lieut. S. M. Watkinson (née Keates); Capt. J. St. J. Williams (née Crofton).

July, 1950.—Major H. F. McFeat; Lieut. M. J. A. Bailey (née Gallagher); Lieut. D. K. Stephens (née Hannon); Sister E. Nolan; Capt. P. M. Pilleau (née Turner) (née Tunnicliffe); Capt. D. J. Kendall (née Dunbar).

August, 1950.—Lieut. D. S. Hornsby (née Potter); Lieut. M. T. P. Reeve (née Ward); Lieut. A. E. O'Neill; Lieut. H. J. Manson (née Souter); Capt. M. H. G. Sturgeon (née Leeper); Lieut. G. McLean (née Cruden); Lieut. R. McManus (née Potter); Lieut. S. M. Grounds (née Wood); Lieut. I. Finlayson (née Pendry); Lieut. J. Wade (née McCullagh); Lieut. J. M. Corrie-Wilkinson (née Rickard).

September, 1950.—T/Lieut.-Colonel F. M. Powell; Capt. A. F. Adamson; Capt. M. C. Murdock; Capt. S. M. Cunningham (née Cannon); Lieut. E. M. Stainforth (née Chadderton); Lieut. P. Stewart (née Smith); Lieut. M. A. Moody (née Lavers); Lieut. M. M. Swift (née Nicholson); Lieut. R. Crook (née Bellamy); Lieut. H. M. B. Porter (née Curran); Lieut. J. P. Hill; Lieut. P. Warren; Capt. J. S. Cole (née Brooks).

October, 1950.—Capt. J. Craig (née Dean); Lieut. E. C. Weare; Capt. G. A. Burroughs; Lieut. V. H. M. Fox; Lieut. M. L. White; Lieut. M. K. I. Gummer (née Montgomerie); Lieut. M. Lewton Brain (née Peet); Lieut. M. A. Hammond (née Norris); Capt. M. M. Way (née Mullin).

November, 1950.—Lieut. D. Augar (née Walker); Lieut. M. E. D. Strachen (née Smith); Lieut. F. M. Walker (née Panting); Capt. M. M. Owen; Capt. M. Cashen; Lieut. J. Blakeborough (née Payne); Lieut. P. I. Hill (née Browning); Lieut. S. L. Fowler (née Smith); Lieut. J. Osborne (née Laird).

December, 1950.—Capt. A. G. Forster; Lieut. C. Saunders (née Robson); Lieut. D. A. Valle.

January, 1951.—Major K. E. Shaw; Capt. D. Bolland; Lieut. H. F. Doyle (née Baker); Lieut. M. Harmen (née Donaghy); Lieut. M. K. Oakley (née Matthews); Lieut. V. Tate (née Bare).

February, 1951.—Major L. R. Wilkins; Lieut. B. Evans (née Reynolds); Lieut. M. Richardson (née Ramsden); Lieut. S. M. Huxtable; Capt. C. A. Bott.

Q.A. Day

Q.A. DAY at the Depot dawned brightly, raising our hopes that for once the weather forecast would be wrong—but, alas, we were disappointed and by the time the Director, Brigadier Dame Anne Thomson, arrived for the first event of the day, snow was falling.

The celebrations started with a parade, Officers and Other Ranks, Q.A.R.A.N.C., and Other Ranks, R.A.M.C., taking part. Ignoring the snow, and to the strains of "Grey and Scarlet" played by the R.A.M.C. Band, they marched smartly past the saluting base, where the Director took the salute.

During the afternoon the sun shone again, and in spite of icy winds the Sergeants challenged the Corporals and Other Ranks to a mixed hockey match. If some of the players were novices, and the game somewhat lacking in skill, it was amply compensated for in fun and good humour, and, cheered on by the hardier souls who turned up as spectators, the Corporals and Privates won by 4 goals to nil.

At 6.30 p.m. guests started to arrive at the Officers' Mess for a cocktail party, where after being refreshed by Q.A. Specials and such like tonics they had the opportunity of seeing some of the presents given to the Depot. Two which had arrived for the 27th were particularly admired. One was a delightful photograph of the Director in uniform wearing her decorations, and most attractively framed. The other, a beautiful bronze statuette of Florence Nightingale, was given by the eight Q.A.I.M.N.S. Matrons-in-Chief and was accompanied by a letter to the Commandant, Colonel E. M. B. Dyson, whose work has made the Depot the flourishing unit it is today. The letter, written beautifully in manuscript by an ex-Q.A., has been signed by each of the eight Matrons-in-Chief and shows the great interest they still take in the Corps. We feel proud to have such a memento in the Mess.

The silver cup given by the Officers, R.A.M.C., and the four silver candlesticks given by the Director were much admired; while many envied us the possession of the beautiful grand piano presented to the Depot by the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association.

The high-light of the day—the first Grey and Scarlet Ball—took place in the Gymnasium, which had been artistically decorated for the occasion; the stage, with new curtains and masses of daffodils, was particularly beautiful and the whole formed a charming setting for a dance. Our unit Messing Officer worked miracles and produced a feast in the form of a buffet supper both in the Officers' Mess and the Other Ranks' dining-hall, providing ample refreshment for all members and their guests.

Music was provided by the Rex Band and dancing continued until 1 a.m., when ended a memorable Q.A. Day.

We were greatly honoured by the Director, Brigadier Dame Anne Thompson, who spared the whole day to be with us at the Depot, and by our Colonel Commandant, Dame Louisa Wilkinson, who came early in the afternoon—an honour appreciated by all.

Amongst other distinguished guests in the evening were Lieut.-General Sir Neil Cantlie and Lady Cantlie, General and Mrs. Dimoline and Major-General Harris.

LILLIAN ROSE.

News from the Branches

Scottish Branch

UNDER the able and stimulating chairmanship of Miss Roy, C.B.E., R.R.C., the new branch in Scotland is making good progress, and has up to date 125 members. As the branch covers the whole of Scotland and there is always friendly rivalry between Edinburgh and Glasgow, plans are being made for members' tea parties to be held in the various regions. It is to begin in Edinburgh and Glasgow, for it is felt that over a cup of "char" personal contacts can more easily be made. It is a long and now expensive journey to London, but the Scottish branch would be glad to know of any Sassenach members of the Q.A.R.A.N.C., who may be crossing the Border either on holiday or to work, and to whom a very warm welcome is assured. It is hoped that these members will write to Miss Roy, 28 Charing Cross Mansions, Glasgow; or to the honorary secretary, Miss E. McIntosh, 24 Willoughby Drive, Glasgow, W.3.

The winter has been so severe that it has been most difficult for country members of the Committee to attend meetings, but in spite of the bad blizzard on 27th January the attendance of eighty at the Annual General Meeting, followed by tea and a Bring-and-Buy sale, was most encouraging. This was held in the Nurses' Club, Glasgow, and not only aided finance, but was a very pleasant reunion. It is hoped that if a future reunion were held in the north of England, the Scottish Branch might be able to help.

CHRISTOBEL M. COURTENAY.

Australian Branch

We have heard from Miss Mavis Avery, secretary, telling us that they gathered their members together on 9th February at Melbourne. Their committee is elected and they are starting a recruitment drive, hoping to cover the different States. Their members are all delighted, as we are, to feel that they are now joined up with us, and we shall look forward to hearing more from them in the next GAZETTE.

Midland Branch

This branch, too, is busy extending membership and they are losing no time in interesting members in social and benevolent activities. They hope to hold Members' Luncheons before their quarterly meetings, which they plan to hold in different places for the convenience of members.

Miss M. A. Gannon, the chairman, has been very ill, but we are glad to say is now convalescing, and we trust that it will not be long before she can again take part in branch activities.

Postings From and Reversions to Home Establishment, January to March, 1951

To B.A.O.R.

Lieut. M. Davidson
Captain H. M. Elliott
Lieut. J. F. Gunn
Lieut. G. M. Johnson
Lieut. M. J. Lomas
Lieut. M. V. McCormack
Lieut. F. M'Lean
Lieut. M. M. Melville
Lieut. E. M. Monson
Lieut. M. T. C. Moran
Lieut. L. P. K. Marshall
Lieut. R. O'Shee
Lieut. B. Roulstone
Lieut. J. Richards
Lieut. E. Stoker
Lieut. E. M. Seppings
Lieut. T. Swinson
Lieut. M. M. Tannahill
Lieut. E. Thompson
Lieut. K. L. Wortley
Major B. M. Webster

To FARELF

Lieut. E. M. Collins
Lieut. M. Davies
Lieut. M. C. Forres
Lieut. E. Fowlis
Capt. G. M. Hogg
Lieut. K. Hyndman
Lieut. B. J. King
Lieut. G. Neary
Lieut. N. G. Nicholls
Lieut. M. F. Souter
Lieut. M. T. Sullivan
Lieut. F. Shaw
Captain V. K. Turner
Lieut. L. B. J. Walker
Lieut. I. Wales

To West Africa

Lieut. V. W. Cavey
Capt. E. Eldon
Lieut. E. Matthews
Lieut. L. K. C. M'Clancy
Capt. M. J. Mullins

To East Africa

Major Y. K. Davey
Major V. A. Dowling
Capt. J. F. Herbert
Lieut. J. P. M. Hannon
Capt. B. N. C. Norman

To Gibraltar

Lieut. J. Neal
Lieut. H. J. McBeath

To Jamaica

Lieut. E. M. Craig
Major M. E. M. Melville

To BETFOR

Lieut. A. Deeley
Lieut. V. Mason
Capt. H. F. E. Payton

To Bermuda

Lieut. J. L. Page

To B.T.A.

Lieut. M. Y. Keeling

To M.E.L.F.

Lieut. B. A. Emmett
Lieut. E. E. Frimeth
Captain E. Ferguson
Lieut. M. E. Howarth
Lieut. A. P. Kelly
Major E. C. Long
Lieut. E. W. Lieper
Lieut. E. M. O'Sullivan
Capt. E. E. Porrit
Lieut. M. Peel
Major N. Pratt
Lieut. E. L. Rawding
Major C. E. Rowles
Lieut. M. R. Scobie
Lieut. F. K. Slack
Lieut. J. M. Steer
Major M. J. Thompson
Capt. A. A. Williams
Lieut. D. Ward
P/A/Cpl. B. Sweeney
W/Cpl. O. Terry
Pte. M. McAloney
Pte. A. Billham
Pte. A. Bailey
Pte. D. Brown
Pte. I. Chittick
Pte. N. Collins
Pte. B. Davies
Pte. L. Doull
Pte. P. Davies
Pte. L. Edgar
Pte. E. Gallant

To M.E.L.F.

Pte. J. Hook
Pte. M. Hearne
Pte. M. Lester
Pte. N. Owen
Pte. E. O'Farrall
Pte. A. Reed
Pte. G. Robinson
Pte. M. Redding
Pte. D. Rispin
Pte. I. Smith
Pte. A. Thomas

From East Africa

Captain A. F. Fenton
Captain K. S. Morris
Major E. B. Powell
Major M. M. Skehan
Lieut. A. F. Seeney

From FARELF

Lieut.-Colonel Brady
Captain J. M. Dawson
Captain A. Jones
Major I. I. Scruton

From M.E.L.F.

Lieut. E. Andrews
Lieut. E. C. Bingham
Captain B. S. Hackett
Captain M. C. Holt
Major M. L. Hallows
Captain K. Pexton
Major E. M. Somerville
Major N. K. Smythe
Lieut. E. W. Wren

From West Africa

Major M. C. Condon
Lieut. M. R. MacDonald
Captain J. B. Smart

From B.A.O.R.

Capt. Corcoran
Capt. H. K. Robinson

From Gibraltar

Captain K. Duncan

Sports Notes

Ski-ing Championships at Badgastein won by Q.A.

Lieut. J. P. Summers' success in the Women's Services Championship in February must have been the cause for much celebration. She is the first member of her Corps to wrest the Championship Cup from the W.R.A.C. and she did it despite a very shaky ankle.

Tennis

The finals for the Medforth Cup will take place on Friday, 22nd June, this year and the Inter-Nursing Services Tennis Tournament on Friday, 20th July. Both events are to be held at the United Services Club, Chatham.

Swimming

"Q.A.R.A.N.C. Championship 66 yards Free Style" will be held at the R.A.M.C. Swimming Gala, Aldershot, on Tuesday, 5th June, 1951.

A Mileage Record?

MANY of us lived up to the old adage, "Join the Army and see the World," but I wonder how many of you, other than perhaps ambulance train personnel, or those in hospital ships, can beat my mileage for six months.

At the end of September, 1945, I left Ancona for Naples *en route* U.K. and twenty-eight days' leave, travelling the two hundred mile run in two days in excruciatingly hard and uncomfortable U.S. Army trucks. Several days later we emplaned and, after a wonderful flight in perfect weather, arrived near Peterborough, thence to Netley to report and away on leave. This added a further 700 miles to my journeyings, as I paid a visit to Edinburgh before returning to Netley where, after endless waiting, we were sent on a nightmare journey to Liverpool. Although the war was over, this was still "top secret" and entailed a five-hours' wait at a forgotten London station on a cold November night, with over one hundred of us trying to get warm by a fire lit in the grate of a huge bomb-damaged waiting-room, and a crowded, partially unheated, train at the end, with no food till we embarked at lunch time next day—not a happy start. We were bound for Bombay and on to Poona for "distribution." My lot fell to Assam, a six-day trek in a hospital train, which broke down for twenty-four hours. Our food was primitive, and we existed on wheatflakes and bananas bought at wayside stations with sugar and tinned milk coaxed from the train Q.M. After a forty-eight hours' break in Calcutta, we set off into the jungle across the Brahmaputra and four hundred miles from civilization.

I had an aunt who was also my godmother, living with my uncle in Delhi. They were due to retire to Canada and, not having seen them for eight years, I was most anxious to pay them a visit before they left. To ease my conscience I volunteered for night duty and asked for leave almost in the same breath. During the month I had been in Assam the staff had doubled and the patients halved their numbers, so I had no qualms, and in the middle of January, 1946, set out on my 1,400-miles journey to Delhi, where I spent five very enjoyable days.

On my return there was a posting order to Chittagong. Back next day to Calcutta and off to Chittagong; a horrid journey by train, ferry and train, with a change in the middle of the night. The hospital I joined was in the throes of closing, and after about seven weeks I found myself alone in a mess of Indian M.Os. What was left of the Officers' and Sisters' Messes had amalgamated some weeks before, as our Mess had been commandeered by the R.A.F., but the British officers and sisters had left one by one. This situation called for immediate leave till posting orders arrived. It took a bit of organization, but three days later I was flying to Calcutta with all impedimenta; this I left there and flew to Delhi for a few days.

Being posted then to the Hills above Dhera Dun, I had only to return to Calcutta and report before collecting my luggage and setting off again at the end of March for Dhera Dun and fifty miles on into the foothills of the Himalayas to complete between 17,000 and 18,000 miles in the space of half a year :

	<i>Miles.</i>
Ancona to Naples	200
Naples to Peterborough	2,000
Peterborough to Netley	150
London to Edinburgh and back	700
Netley to Liverpool	300
Liverpool to Bombay	6,000
Poona to Calcutta	1,000
Calcutta to Assam	400
Assam to Delhi and back	2,800
Assam to Chittagong	700
Chittagong to Delhi	1,300
Delhi to Calcutta	1,000
Calcutta to Dhera Dun	1,000
Total ...	17,550

DAPHNE DUDLEY-WARD.

Friends, Please Note

We regretfully announce the death of five of our members :

GREGORY.—Miss A. E. Gregory, P.C.A.N.S.R., Merrie Lees, Baslow, Near Bakewell, Derbyshire, on 22nd December, 1950.

WHELAN.—Mrs. G. A. Whelan, Q.A.M.N.S. (I), The Peebles, Budleigh Salterton, South Devon, on 20th February, 1951.

WATERS.—Major J. W. M. Waters, Q.A.R.A.N.C., Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, Millbank, London, S.W.1, on 9th March, 1951.

DOUGLAS.—Miss B. Douglas, Q.A./R., in Australia this year.

BROWN.—Major E. I. Brown, Q.A.R.A.N.C., suddenly on 20th April, 1951, at Tidworth.

Reunions

THE members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting were very definite in their desire for a reunion to be organized for them in London this year. Accommodation is difficult because of the Festival of Britain and, consequently, there was little or no choice of dates, which is the reason for holding the function early.

An Association Reunion will be held at Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1, on Saturday, 16th June, 1951, 4—7 p.m. Tickets: 10s. members, 12s. 6d. non-members. Apply Reunion, 20, John Islip Street, London, S.W.1.

* * * *

The Q.A.R.A.N.C. held their annual Reception on Friday, 20th April. This year they departed from their usual custom of having an afternoon function and gave an evening cocktail party in the beautiful Grocers' Hall in Princes Street, E.C.2. Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, G.C.B., G.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Chief of the Imperial General Staff was the guest of honour. The gay crowd appreciated the background and the party was obviously a great success.

* * * *

Another smaller reunion was held at the United Nursing Services Club on Tuesday, 24th April, when the three Matrons-in-Chief of the Navy, Army and Air Force, Miss Gillanders, Dame Anne Thomson, and Dame Helen Cargill, gave their annual luncheon party to their predecessors. The Matron-in-Chief guests were, Royal Navy: Dame Doris Beale and Miss O. Franklin; Army: Dame Ann Beadsmore Smith, Miss F. M. Hodgins, Miss M. E. Medforth, Dame Katharine Jones, and Dame Louisa J. Wilkinson; Royal Air Force: Dame Emily Blair and Dame Katharine Watt. It was an enjoyable party at the end of which Dame Ann Beadsmore Smith thanked the hostesses on behalf of the guests and said how much they all appreciated being remembered and kept in touch with the progress of their old Services.

* * * *

The Sisters of the 3rd (Scots) General Hospital held their Annual Reunion Dinner in the Royal British Hotel, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 17th February, 1951. Twenty-six members were present.

If any Sisters who belonged to this unit did not receive a notice of the reunion would they kindly send names and addresses to the Secretary, Miss Lucy MacKenzie, c/o 6 Bangholm Terrace, Edinburgh 4.

Annual Report and Balance Sheet

THE following is a summary of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association, held at 20 John Islip Street, Millbank, London, S.W.1, 31st March, 1951.

The Report was submitted to the members by the Chairman and covered the twelve months since the 2nd Annual General Meeting. The audited accounts were for the year 1950 from 1st January to on 31st December.

Membership

Membership has been reduced by 7 deaths, 3 resignations and 1,061 lapsed subscriptions. Total membership at 31st March, 1951, 1,508—a decrease of 374 on figures given at 2nd Annual General Meeting. Some of the 1,061 subscriptions will probably dribble in during the current year, but it is a sorry tale. Three branches have been formed within this membership : Scottish, Australian and Midland, accounting for 212 members.

Activities

1. *The Reunion*, 1950, was poorly attended, resulting in a small deficit. Members were reminded that there was also a deficit in 1949, although that Reunion was crowded to capacity and beyond. There is a constant demand from members that Reunions should be held, but Association social events must be made self-supporting. The Central Fund is likely to be gravely depleted by members' casual attitude towards payment of annual subscriptions, and the Managing Trustees are not prepared to continue to meet deficits on social events. Every penny is required for Association running costs and expansion.

2. *Field of Remembrance*, 1950.—The arrangements for the tribute to members of the Army Nursing Service on the Empire Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey was carried out by the Association.

3. *Empire Nurses Memorial Chapel*.—Four members represented the Association at the dedication of the Chapel, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth unveiled the Memorial Window, on 2nd November, 1950.

4. *Association Gazette*.—Publication of the GAZETTE was established during 1950. Number of subscribers is now 544. Costs are not yet covered. There is a deficit of £61 8s. 7d. to date. More subscribers are needed and more contributions to contents. An Editor is required. The introduction of advertisements is being explored.

5. *Association Brooch*, perpetuating the design of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service badge, is now available. 682

have been sold, covering initial costs of first supply. All future sales will give a proportion of profit.

6. *Presentations from the Association.*—At the last Annual General Meeting the gift of four clocks to the Victory Ex-Services Club was reported. This year an equivalent gesture had been made towards the serving members by presenting a grand piano to the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Depot.

A Sheraton show-table was presented to the Q.A. Headquarters Mess to hold their Visitors' Book, which has many valuable signatures, a token of gratitude for their assistance in housing the Association office.

These gifts come from the Reserve Fund and do not affect the current year's accounts. They are part of the effort to establish the Association and create good will.

7. *Benevolence.*—There has been a big expansion of this work brought about chiefly because the formation of the Association has brought much more of the need to light. At the last Annual General Meeting a total of £600 18s. expenditure from all benevolent funds was reported. This year the total is £990 2s. 9d.

Members will appreciate that the need is now and that it will continue for some years to come. After that it may be expected to diminish because of the improved conditions for nurses. It is very necessary to be clear about the position of our Benevolent Funds.

The T.A.N.S. Benevolent Fund position is simple. We can meet the need by creating a yearly excess of expenditure over income which can be covered by the sale of capital when necessary, and if the capital should ever be finally used up, the T.A.N.S. members are eligible to benefit from the Association Benevolent Fund.

The Q.A. and Reserve side is much more complex for two reasons—viz., the capital of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. Benevolent Fund is tied up, and secondly, the creation of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Corps has brought legal difficulties for this fund. We have had to agree to keep it a separate fund. There is a very heavy drain on this fund which is likely to increase for at least the next few years, and it cannot be met out of the present income. Capital cannot be sold. It is an urgent matter which must be taken up.

Speaking generally, there is tremendous scope for benevolent work within the Association, and a Friends' Scheme is being started to meet the need in an organized way. There will be a Friends' Secretary responsible to find a member Friend in the same area for any of our sick or older members. The Secretary will supply Friends with printed and stamped postcards to be sent in to her quarterly, briefly indicating that all is well or that a separate report has been sent in, and the Secretary will point out to the Central Committee when help is needed somewhere financially or otherwise. The same scheme in a modified form can be used to cover other friendship activities. In this way those we know of will not be neglected or overlooked, and we hope to draw many others into the scheme and make them feel they "belong."

Members make use of the Association in many ways and we are very happy to help, for that is why the Association exists.

8. *Army Sisters' Memorial Fund*.—To date 41 grants have been made, totalling roughly £956. The author's fee for the writing of the Memorial Book has been paid, but there are still a few additions and corrections to be made which may involve us in more expense before publication. There is about £800 in hand. The remainder, with any profits from the sale of the book, will be entirely used up in grants. It is expected that the book will be published during 1952.

9. *Branches*.—Three have been formed, the Scottish, Australian and Midland, and they are taking a keen interest in establishing and expanding branch activities in their own areas.

10. *Queen Mary's House Fund*.—This fund is not controlled by the Association. It has a separate Committee, but the Association Chairman is the honorary secretary of Q.M.H. Fund and all office work is carried out in the Association Headquarters office. Expenses are received from Q.M.H. Fund in this connection.

Management

The Central Committee has met four times during the year to conduct Association affairs. The Finance and Grants Committee appointed by the Central Committee among their members has met five times.

It has been a very busy year and much time extra to meetings has been given to the work of the Association by the Honorary officers, past and present Committee members and other Association members, and gratitude for their support is recorded.

In conclusion, it is safe to say that we are becoming more organized though there is a long way to go yet. This is the third Annual General Meeting of the Association and we now have the experience of those three years to work upon in planning ahead. It is essential to have our Central Committee composed of members who can share some of the day-to-day work as the Association, and practically all that it does is run by voluntary effort from the members. Our salaried staff consists of only one person and she freely gives much extra time to the work.

The Chairman's Report was unanimously adopted.

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The Central Committee members for the ensuing twelve months are as follows :

Officials.—Chairman, Dame Louisa J. Wilkinson ; Vice-Chairman, Miss M. E. Craven ; Honorary Secretary, Miss M. B. Clelland ; Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. L. M. M. Laws.

Ex-Officio.—Commandant, Q.A.R.A.N.C. Depot ; Chairmen of Branches.

Members in second year.—Miss D. C. Bridges, T.A.N.S. ; Miss J. A. Patterson, Q.A. (retd.) ; Miss E. A. Baldock, Q.A./R.

Members in first year.—Mrs. B. Mills, T.A.N.S. (Friends' Secretary) ; Miss J. Ramsay, Q.A. (retd.) ; Miss H. Luker, Q.A./R.

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association

SUMMARY OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1950

CENTRAL FUND

INCOME	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions, Annual and Proportion Life	264	10	0
Expenses from Funds administered	206	9	9
Profit on sale badges	26	13	4
Excess expenditure over income	84	13	1
	£582	6	2

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
Salaries, Insurance, Travelling expenses, Accountancy			
Stationery, Office expenses	512	14	6
Branches	46	13	3
Donations and Subscriptions	18	2	10
Loss on Reunion	4	15	7
	£582	6	2

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES	£	s.	d.
Sundry Creditors	45	11	11
Advance Subscriptions	80	7	6
Life Subscriptions	1,754	10	0
Reserve Fund	647	2	3
	£2,527	11	8
GENERAL FUND :			
As at 31st December, 1949	54	12	0
Less Excess of expenditure over income	84	13	11
	30	1	1
	£2,497	10	7

ASSETS	£	s.	d.
At Bank	2,374	0	2
In hand	23	15	10
Badges in stock	35	15	0
Expenses due	60	17	1
Subscriptions in arrears	3	2	6
	£2,497	10	7

GAZETTE FUND

INCOME	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions and sundry sales	275	16	3
Excess expenditure over income	61	8	7
	£337	4	10

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
Cost of production and postage	289	18	6
Expenses, Central Fund	38	16	4
Accountancy and Audit	10	10	0
	£337	4	10

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES				£	s.	d.	ASSETS				£	s.	d.
Sundry Creditors	...	...	...	95	13	1	Cash in Bank and in hand	...	...	...	163	14	6
Advance Subscriptions	...	...	...	129	10	0	Excess expenditure	...	...	...	61	8	7
				<hr/>							<hr/>		
				£225	3	1					£225	3	1

ARMY SISTERS' MEMORIAL FUND

Audit due. Summary will be given in next issue of GAZETTE.

T.A.N.S. BENEVOLENT FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME				£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE				£	s.	d.
Donations	...	...	...	13	16	6	Grants	...	...	...	289	0	0
Interest and Dividends	...	...	...	141	5	9	Property expenses	...	...	...	20	13	0
Refund Income Tax	...	...	...	103	18	4	Expenses, Central Fund	...	...	...	48	1	0
Deficit	...	...	...	104	19	5	Fees, Trustees and Audit	...	...	...	6	6	0
				<hr/>							<hr/>		
				£364	0	0					£364	0	0

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES				£	s.	d.	ASSETS				£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT							Freehold Land and Buildings	...	...	...	971	12	6
Balance, less deficit for year	...	...	...	8,379	5	8	Advance payments, property maintenance	...	...	...	6	12	3
Sundry Creditors	...	...	...	8	8	0	Investments	...	...	...	7,046	19	8
				<hr/>			Cash Balance	...	...	...	362	9	3
				<hr/>							<hr/>		
				£8,387	13	8					£8,387	13	8

Q.A.I.M.N.S. BENEVOLENT FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(2 years ending 31st December, 1950)

INCOME						EXPENDITURE												
						£	s.	d.							£	s.	d.	
From Investments	529	14	0	Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	864	11	8
Donations	36	5	4	Expenses, Central Fund	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	11	6
Excess expenditure over income for 2 years	349	3	10										
						<u>£915 3 2</u>									<u>£915 3 2</u>			

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES						ASSETS												
						£	s.	d.							£	s.	d.	
Creditors	10	17	1	Cash at Bank	...	...	...	...	...	...	359	1	9
Total Fund less excess expenditure over income for 2 years	9,069	12	1	Investments	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,721	7	5
						<u>£9,080 9 2</u>									<u>£9,080 9 2</u>			

ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(2 years ending 31st December, 1950)

INCOME						EXPENDITURE												
						£	s.	d.							£	s.	d.	
From Donations	544	7	3	Grants and Donations	...	...	...	...	...	...	119	14	0
									Expenses, Central Fund	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	10	11
									Excess income over expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	375	2	4
						<u>£544 7 3</u>									<u>£544 7 3</u>			

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES						ASSETS												
						£	s.	d.							£	s.	d.	
Creditors	9	16	5	At Bank	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,193	10	1
TOTAL FUND	...	...	...	...	...								
At 1st January, 1949	249	11	4										
Add legacy	2,559	0	0										
Excess income over expenditure	375	2	4										
						<u>3,183 13 8</u>												
						<u>£3,193 10 1</u>									<u>£3,193 10 1</u>			